

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claim 9:

1. (Previously Amended) In a process for synthesizing methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, a method of extracting water and alcohol from an intermediate mixture comprising methylcyclopentadiene, water and alcohol, comprises the steps of :

providing an organic material obtained during the synthesis of methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, the organic material comprising methylcyclopentadiene, water and alcohol;

adding water to the organic material to create organic and aqueous fractions; and separating the organic and aqueous fractions;

wherein the separated organic fraction comprises less water and alcohol than in the organic material before the addition of water and separation of fractions.

2. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the alcohol comprises methanol.

3. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the alcohol comprises 2-methoxyethanol.

4. (Original) The method described in claim 1, wherein the amount of water added to the organic material is from about one to about ten vol. %.

5. (Original) The method described in claim 1, wherein the amount of water added to the organic material is about 2.5 vol. %.

6. (Original) The method described in claim 1, further comprising the step of processing the separated organic fraction over a bed of molecular sieve.

7. (Original) The method described in claim 1, further comprising the step of processing the separated organic fraction over a bed of activated alumina.

8. (Previously Amended) In a process for synthesizing methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, a method of improving the purity of initial methylcyclopentadiene by removing water and/or alcohol contaminants therein, said method comprising:

adding to methylcyclopentadiene contaminated with water and/or alcohol during the synthesis of methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, an amount of water sufficient to create methylcyclopentadiene and aqueous fractions;

separating the methylcyclopentadiene and aqueous fractions;

wherein the separated methylcyclopentadiene comprised less water and/or alcohol than the initial methylcyclopentadiene.

9. (Canceled)